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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Appointment of Schoolteachers; Youth Organizations in Albania

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Appointment of Schoolteachers

1. Graduates of the two-year Paedagogic Institute can be used as teachers up to the first grade of the Gymnasium. The Russian language is taught in the Paedagogic Institute and in the Gymnasia.
2. For anyone to be appointed a teacher in a school the following things are necessary:
 - a. He must get a certificate from the Organizata Baze of his village certifying that he is a "good man", interested in his work, and comes from a lower social class.
 - b. If the candidate is a member of the Communist Party of Albania, the above certificate is given to him personally. If he is not a member, the certificate is sent by messenger from the Organizata Baze to the Komiteti of the District.
 - c. The candidate wishing to be appointed teacher submits his application for appointment to the Komitet of the District together with the certificate from the Organizata Baze if he has received it. To the application he attaches his school diploma.
 - d. The candidate is examined by a physician to determine whether he is mentally sound and free from communicable disease. The physician issues him a certificate of health.
 - e. The candidate requests a certificate from the bureau of vital statistics of the Lokalitet to which his village belongs.
 - f. The various documents are submitted to the Komitet of the District. Two weeks later an answer in writing is sent to the candidate if his appointment has been approved. If his appointment is not approved, he does not receive any answer.
3. As a rule opponents of the political line of the Communist Party of Albania do not receive appointments as schoolteachers.

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4. The appointment of a teacher is announced by the Komitet of the District to the school to which the teacher is appointed.
5. Informant does not know whether the Ministry of Education intervenes in the appointments of local schoolteachers. He thinks that the Komitet of the District has the authority to make the appointment itself.
6. Once appointed the teacher must consult a book called the "Teacher's Assistant". This book lays down the principle that propaganda in favor of Communism must be spread among the pupils. It also presents problems referring to the business of the Cooperatives and Collective Farms. The teacher is obliged to spread propaganda in favor of these institutions. He must also develop propaganda in favor of the USSR. For example, the book says that in 1947 the USSR gave Albania ten tractors, and in 1948, 56 tractors, "see how much our friend Soviet Russia helps us!" In general, all the subjects are filled with propaganda in favor of Communism.

Youth Organization

7. In the school in Bilisht where Informant studied, there was a Youth Organization. Not all the students of the school enrolled in this organization since only students of the lower social order could join, and preferably, the children of Partisans who had been killed in the fighting during the occupation.
8. Enrollment in the Youth Organization was made after a meeting of all the pupils of the school. This meeting was called by the Leader of the Youth. He had a list with the names of students who were invited to enroll in the Youth Organization. He compiled this list on the basis of biographical data on each pupil and his family.
9. At the meeting of the students the Leader of the Youth read off the names of the students who in the future should belong to the Youth Organization, and as each name was read off he explained the reason why that particular student was to be enrolled. He also gave the reasons why the other students would not be enrolled in the organization, but promised that they would be enrolled when they worked hard for the Party.
10. By working for the Party is meant among other things, becoming an informer and reporting to the Organizatsia Baze or to the Leader of the Youth Organization of the school, every act of a fellow pupil or villager opposing the political line of the Communist Party.
11. As a rule, all the students want to be enrolled in the Youth Organization, not because of Communist ideology or sympathy, but in order to avoid being regarded as a "reactionary", because reactionaries may be expelled from school. Furthermore, when a student who belongs to the Youth Organization is not good in his studies he is shown every leniency.
12. To elect the Leader of the Youth, the Secretary, etc., there are two possible methods:
 - a. Secret voting among the eight members of the council to select a chairman, etc.
 - b. Secret voting by all the students for a ticket which contains the names of the eight selected above through a show of hands. In this case, each student marks the name of only one of the eight members. Then the votes are counted, and the one who receives the most votes becomes the Leader, the second becomes Secretary, and so on.
13. The Council of the Youth of the School undertakes to apply the training program which is laid down by the Komitet of the District. In the seven-grade schools the propaganda and theory of Communism are given by the members of the Council of the Youth Organization, but in the four-grade elementary schools this is done by one of the teachers who must belong to the Communist Party.

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14. According to the decision of the Council of the Youth Organization of the school all the students are gathered together once or twice a week for three to four hours in the afternoon. During this meeting the theories of Communism are explained. The activities of Stalin, Lenin, etc., are extolled. Whenever there is a Soviet holiday there is an afternoon meeting to explain the meaning and occasion of the holiday and what it means to mankind. On the anniversary of the October Revolution there are pictures of Stalin on all the walls and there are signs posted giving slogans in favor of Albanian-Soviet friendship. The October Revolution celebration lasted for a month.

Schoolteacher's Salary

15. The basic monthly salary for a teacher in an elementary school is 3,500 lek. From this, however, there are deductions made for the teacher's retirement fund, the Albanian Red Cross, and for the Albanian Government. This last tax amounts to one month's salary per year, and to meet it a deduction is made from each month's salary. The total deduction amounts to 550 lek per month.

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